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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 655

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20 November 1979

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ZAMBIAN TRADE DELEGATION VISITS MALAWI

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2715

[Text] A 12-man Zambian delegation headed by the minister of commerce and industry traveled to Malawi last August on a study mission.

The purpose of this mission, which was brought about by regular price increases for imported products by Lusaka and growing transportation costs, is to determine what goods Zambia could purchase from Malawi and what merchandise it would be in a position to sell the latter, to strengthen the commercial ties existing between the two neighboring countries.

The balance of trade between the two countries, which was favorable to Lusaka up to 1976, has changed to the benefit of Lilongwe with the registering of a surplus of 3.2 million kwacha in 1978 in favor of Malawi (Zambian imports consisting of tea, sugar and grains totaled 6.06 million kwacha; i.e., 4 percent of all Malawi sales, while exports to Malawi were only 2.85 million kwacha, representing 1 percent of this country's total purchases).

After having visited several factories in Blantyre and Zomba and appraising the economic situation of Malawi, the Zambian mission expressed its conviction that, abetted by the project to link the two railway networks, commercial exchanges between the two countries will experience an appreciable expansion in the near future.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

CEAO COOPERATION INTENSIFIED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANNEENS in French 12 Oct 79 pp 2747-2749

[Article by Roger Nikiema: "On the Eve of the Conference of Heads of State (Nouakchott, 19-20 October 1979): Strengthened Cooperation Within the CEAO"]

[Text] From 10 until 20 October 1979, the capital of Mauritania, Nouakchott, will host the fifth conference of the West African Economic Community [CEAO].* Having prepared it throughout the year through meetings of experts and numerous contacts in Africa as well as outside the continent, the authorities in Nouakchott want to reaffirm once again, as President Houphouet-Boigny emphasized, that "the CEAO is a precious link in the long chain of African solidarity."

One may recall that in October 1978, in Bamako, the heads of state of the six member countries made historic decisions which put the options of endogenous development of the Community in as concrete a form as possible. In addition to establishing the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community [FOSIDEC], they decided to create five community centers and institutes for training the upper cadres of the states of the sub-region, specifically in the areas of management, fishing, textiles, solar energy and mining. In fulfillment of their mandate, the secretary general of the CEAO has already prepared the studies necessary for the realization of these bodies -- studies which will be submitted in Nouakchott. The initial cost of the necessary investments is estimated at 21 billion CFA [African Financial Community (monetary unit)].**

* Following the meetings of experts, the Council of Ministers will meet on 16 and 17 October to prepare the conference of the heads of state, which will be held on 19 and 20 October.

** They are: the Higher School of Geology and Mining, the Community School for Training of Textile Cadres, the African Center for Higher Management Studies, the Higher Institute of Fishery Sciences and Techniques, the Regional Center for Solar Energy; a study has also been made of the Community Company for Equipment and the Marketing of Fishery Products, which was also created in Bamako, in October 1978.

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The political commitment, which has always characterized the heads of state with regard to everything touching "our Community," is a guarantee for the completion of these projects. To this effect, the summit in Nouakchott will also be an historic one to the extent that this summit will provide the kick-off for these large community achievements. FOSIDEC, a specialized instrument intended for the financing of the development of the Community through the achievement of national projects and community institutions -- and whose capital amounts to more than 6.5 billion CFA -- will certainly guarantee the financing of these bodies. As a matter of fact, through FOSIDEC -- which got off the ground last May, following the appointment of its director -- the Community authorities have put into concrete form their desire to create "a common market of our financial resources," intended to give form to an autonomous effort of the member states.

Toward Real Common Market

The process toward a real common market is becoming more clear every day. Integration already covers numerous sectors: trade, agriculture, industry, transportation, communication, etcetera.

Trade causes legitimate pride in the Community and justifies the hope for a real common market by 1986. The effects of the TCR, the regional cooperation tax, are manifested in both an advantageous and a concrete manner.*

The compensation payments ensuing from the application of this unique system of taxation in West Africa increase from year to year. The real depreciations which have been recorded have gone from 780 million CFA in 1976, when the TCR was first applied, to 1545.8 million CFA in 1977, to 1885.5 million CFA in 1978 and more than 2 billion in 1979, or a progression of 98 percent and 22 percent and a jump of 160 percent between 1976 and 1979. According to currently available data, this figure will probably pass the 3.5 billion CFA mark for the year 1980.

These figures are indicative of the positive evolution of intra-community trade. When looked at from the angle of the actual value of the goods exchanged, this evolution has in fact gone from 2.84 billion in 1976 to 5.52 billion in 1977 and to 6.49 billion in 1978 or, respectively, up 81.29 percent (1976-77), up 21.29 percent (1977-78) and up 119.89 percent (1976-78).

* TCR (Regional Cooperation Tax). The industrial products, which originate in the Community and which are the object of trade between member states, are approved by the Council of Ministers of the CEAO for the TCR. They also benefit from a variable preferential tax. Application of the TCR produces depreciations. Another instrument of cooperation and solidarity for the CEAO, the Community Development Fund [FCD], which acts as a financial and economic compensation fund, returns to the importing member states two-thirds of the depreciations resulting from the application of the TCR; the non-distributed third is allocated to development activities.

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The current objective is to pass the advantages of the TCR, which was created to promote the development of industrial products, on to the consumer. A study to this effect is in progress at the Secretariat General. Based on statements regarding the availability for consumption of the products suitable for the TCR received by the Community secretariat to make the evaluation of compensation payments possible, its objective is to determine the legal sale price on each national market by incorporating all additional costs and the profit margin into the invoice figures. It is then a question of noting, by checking the important sales points, whether the actual sale price of the merchandise samples corresponds to the legal sale prices.

Fundamental Stage

The main phases of customs and fiscal cooperation have now largely been initiated. If the countries continue to play the game as they are doing now, the customs and fiscal integration -- which is the foundation of any economic community and for which the treaty allows 12 years -- will become a reality within the time allotted. In any case, all the stages have been started, and most of them have already been covered, such as the unified customs and statistics nomenclature, the establishment of a privileged rate system.

The only things left are the unhindered circulation of the industrial products which are currently acceptable for TCR, the harmonization of domestic tariffs, and the common external tariff, which are all questions currently being studied. Following the establishment and functioning of the basic mechanisms, they constitute the ultimate phase of the common market. Precautions have been taken to prevent any slowdown or any failure of the process. A circular mission, carried out by the experts of the 1979 secretariat, made it possible to make a diagnosis of the fundamental questions which arise at the level of the trade relations of member states. It provided the opportunity to compile three files of major importance: the first one related to the project of harmonization of the rates of import duties and taxes; the second one related to the conditions for implementation of the free circulation of products from the Community; and finally, the third one related to the conditions for implementation of the decision concerning the requirements of information exchange between the Secretariat General and the national administrations. These files will be submitted for judgment to the heads of state in Nouakchott next week.

The fourth summit of Bamako (October 1978) had been characterized by the adoption of an agreement on the free circulation of individuals and an agreement in principle concerning the freedom of payments and the free circulation of capital between the member states. The objective was to complete the free circulation of goods, which had already been agreed on. During the meeting of the /ad hoc/ [printed in italics] committee on the second project of agreement in Dakar, after having recalled the common trading past of the states in the area, Mr Moussa Ngom, secretary general of the CEA0, stressed that the objective of the agreement on the freedom of current payments and the free circulation of capital within the Community was to build a more

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Available Funds of 1978 FCD as of 30 June 1979
(in millions of CFA francs)

	Projected Situation(1)			Real Situation(2)		
	Deprecia- tions (P)	Share of Community Operations (1/3P)	Compensa- tion Payments (2/3P)	Deprecia- tions	Compensa- tion Payments	Available Funds(3)
Ivory Coast..	578.8	192.9	385.9	165 *	110 *	+275.2*
Upper Volta.. (12 months)	569.4	189.8	379.6	710.2	473.4	- 93.8
Mali..... (12 months)	237	79	158	341.1	227.3	- 69.3
Mauritania... (12 months)	163.2	54.4	108.8	181.5	121	- 12.1
Niger..... (8 months)	182.8	60.9	121.9	242.9*	161.9*	- 40 *
Senegal..... (7 months)	567.3	189.1	378.2	244.7	163.2	+ 215
Total.....	2 298.7	766.2	1 532.5	1 865.5	1 256.9*	+275.6*

(*) Provisional figures.

(1) The projected situation is a yearly one.

(2) The real situation corresponds to the number of months indicated below the name of the member state.

(3) Available funds = projected compensation payments - real compensation payments.

homogeneous trade area; the latter should take into account the national entities which make it up and be based on the CEA0 treaty. As a matter of fact, one must face the evidence that the economies of the member states, taken separately, do not provide the necessary conditions for development. The future belongs to the large economic bodies. "If the logic of any group -- and more specifically, of /development/ [printed in italics] groups, such as the CEA0, whose chief concern is man with his various preoccupations, his needs -- is a dynamic which aims for a collective awareness of unity, the establishment of an agreement on the free circulation of capital and of goods does not at all aim at discouraging financial contributions from outside the economic space of the Community. It simply aims at strengthening the feeling of complementarity of partners bound together by the same harrowing problems, who know that they are vulnerable, but who are aware that together they can be stronger and better respected at the time of economic confrontation."*

* Speech by Mr Moussa Ngom. Ad Hoc Committee on the Freedom of Payments and the Free Circulation of Capital between the States. Dakar, September 1979.

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Evolution of Imports of Products Approved
by the Countries of the CEA0

(Q = tons; V = million CFA)

	<u>1976</u>		<u>1977</u>		<u>1978</u>	
	<u>Q</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>V</u>
Ivory Coast.....	-	-	264.7	136.9	585.4(1)	538.8(1)
Upper Volta.....	3711.9	932.8	3901.6	1236.9	5234.1	1987
Mali.....	3652.8	813.8	6272.2	1562.8	9424.8	2042.2
Mauritania.....	2302.9	395.3	5397.3	567.7	1586.5	392.6
Niger.....	1500.7	664.4	3321.7	1720.9	2550.4(2)	1165.9(2)
Senegal.....	73.9	35.5	190.9	327.8	269 (1)	364.5(1)
Total.....	11242.4	2841.8	19348.6	5552.5	19650.5	6491.1

- (1) In these progression rates, the value of imports of approved products for the Ivory Coast and Senegal, which appear in this table, is disregarded: those figures are not significant because they are either incomplete or even non-existent (Ivory Coast in 1976).
- (2) As the real values and quantities for Niger in 1978 related to 8 months, an extrapolation was made to estimate the whole year 1978.

Thus, thanks to these three instruments, products, individuals and goods will be able to circulate freely. In the interval between the two conferences, a series of studies were conducted, which aim primarily at defining the basic elements of a development policy of transportation and communications within the Community. Let us recall that the studies on the maritime transportation company, which are to be conducted by UNCTAD, and those on the railroad car factory, which will be carried out by the African Railroad Union (an OAU body) will start shortly.

Dominant Interest: Rural Development

One of the first contributions of the Community to the development of the member states was the signing, on 21 September last, of a financing agreement in the amount of 222 million CFA, based on internal funds and in the form of grants, for the achievement of projects in Upper Volta, among which were the repairing of dams and the training of upper cadres in agriculture. This is an example of the interest of the CEA0 in rural development. Parallel to the bilateral agreements, the secretariat has two substantial community projects: the village and rural water project and the fight against epizootics.

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With regard to the first community project, over a period of 5 years and largely with internal funds, the CEAO will build 3000 water supply points in the member states. With an estimated cost of 17 billion CFA, this program -- which is truly integrated -- will make a positive contribution to the solution of one of the most crucial problems of the countries of the sub-region: the right to water. At the present time, nearly 25 percent of the villages do not have a reliable water supply at all and the real needs of the whole population are far from being met.

The joint campaign against epizootics is spread over a period of 4 years. It will require financial means on the order of 4 billion CFA. If one considers the capital to be saved, the growing needs of the people in terms of meat and the income which the peasants may earn through the rational exploitation of healthy livestock, the investment is justified. A meeting of livestock directors and of directors of veterinary laboratories of the Community, which was held in Dakar at the beginning of July with the participation of international sources of financing, "noted with satisfaction the availability of the latter, notably the European Development Fund, for immediate aid with the complementary studies in order to reach conclusions quickly which would effectively get this campaign for eradication of epizootics under way."

Reasons for Confidence

As a result of a report on international cooperation, the fourth conference of heads of state in Bamako, which was held in October 1978, had given the Secretariat General a mandate to continue and expand efforts directed toward sub-regional and international organizations, as well as those toward friendly countries. A methodical action which was started immediately led to an official sanctioning of the recognition of the CEAO at the international level thanks to the signing of framework agreements of cooperation with an ever increasing number of financing organizations and institutions. This effort contributed, among other things, to "securing and drawing toward the Community and the member states, the maximum of technical skills and financial resources."

In his report on activities for the year 1978-1979, Mr Moussa Ngom wrote that these ties of institutionalized cooperation make it possible to strengthen the efforts which "our organization consents to for its development through assistance in terms of qualified experts and not inconsiderable financial resources." The reason for this development lies in the firm decision of the member states first to count on their own resources -- a principle which has furthered this movement of cooperation and assistance, characterized by invaluable trust capital, unique in the framework of African organizations.

Two examples illustrate this trust. Following brief visits to the headquarters of the CEAO, European Commissioner C. Cheysson stated that he had had the opportunity there "to express more strongly the hope which the European Community has placed in its sister Community of Western Africa,

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and also to state that we are at the disposal of this African sister"; as for Mr Mahtar M'Bow, at the end of his visit to the headquarters of the CEAO he declared that "UNESCO is pleased with the actions carried out by the CEAO to strengthen cooperation between its member states; it will provide its cooperation to the best of its abilities to an institution whose goals are similar to its own and whose success will open the way to greater solidarity for the African people."

The Nouakchott conference -- which will be characterized by strengthened cooperation, within the perspective of the decisive decade of 1980-1990 -- will mark the completion of a real common market and will be able to take advantage of the already promising thrust of this organization, of which President Traore states that "all the conditions have been met so that in the years to come it will not only constitute a necessity, but also serve as a point of reference."

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SOUTH AFRICAN AID TO MALAWI--Mr. Tembo, president of the Malawi Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC), recently headed a 6-man delegation to South Africa to negotiate a loan of 9 million kwacha for the construction of corn silos in Lilongwe. Initiatives undertaken at the beginning of the year should be consummated and permit the construction of these storage units with a total capacity of 180,000 tons. The project whose execution will reportedly be handled by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) will cost about 12 million kwacha. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2715] 8143

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

JOINT OIL VENTURES -- Mr Jorge de Morais, the Angolan oil minister, has stated that the discovery of new oil deposits, underground as well as under-sea, is a priority item of Angolan policy. Mr de Morais, who made this statement on 5 October in Vienna, during the last session of the OPEC seminar, specified that Angola is in favor of the creation of new "joint ventures" which would accelerate the discovery and exploitation of new deposits. Moreover, Mr de Morais stated that the oil potential of Angola has been widely "underestimated." Finally, the Angolan minister recalled the fact that as soon as it became independent, Angola applied for membership in OPEC and that it is still waiting for a "positive decision" to be made. [Text]
[Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANNEENS in French 12 Oct 79 p 2781]
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BENIN

DETAILS ON FIRST DEVELOPMENT PLAN GIVEN

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS 12 Oct 79 p 2765

[Article: "First Benin State Plan (1978-1981)"]

[Text] In September 1977, the head of the Benin state signed a document promulgating the first 3-year state plan, 1977-1980. Later on, because of the delay in its implementation, the plan was to cover the years 1978-1981. It has also remained secret since only an international version has been published.

The document published lists projects or ideas for projects, "the realization of which will contribute to put Benin on the road to planned socialist development."

The authors of the plan, who have received the help of but a few United Nations' experts, had the following objectives in mind:

- to increase the standards of living of the people;
- to insure participation at the regional level through an inter-regional distribution of the production.

For the implementation of these ambitious objectives, Benin officials rely, under the present plan, on the industry which is expected to increase its share in the GNP from 11 percent at the beginning of the plan to 17 percent at the end, the purpose of agriculture, which is called here "a basis for development," being to finance industry. After this choice has been made, decreased contributions to the commercial sector have been contemplated (this includes the administration), which is why a certain stagnation has been noted in this sector. Almost no change is expected in the primary sector during the period covered, since the GNP varies between 37-38 percent.

The essential orientation being toward industry, major projects are being contemplated, involving large capital investments. The investments are as follows:

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Sector	Amounts (billion CFAF)	%
I. Industry	111.5	45.7
--Save sugar mill	30.0	12.3
--Onigbolo cement plant	17.4	7.1
--Oil refinery	45.0	18.5
II. Transportation	54.8	22.5
--Roads	22.7	9.3
--Railroads	7.6	3.1
--Port	19.6	8.0
III. Rural development	26.0	10.7
IV. Public services	22.1	9.1
V. Tourism	3.2	1.3
VI. Commerce	3.5	1.4
VII. Health	6.8	2.8
VIII. Education	16.0	6.6
TOTAL	243.9	100.0

Transportation and industry amount to almost 70 percent of all investments. In industry, projects such as the sugar mill, the oil refinery and the cement plant account for 92 billion CFA francs, i.e., 38 percent of the total. On the other hand, rural development (stock farming, fisheries, etc.) accounts for only 11 percent of the investments.

This discrepancy between industry, the mainspring of development as the government sees it, and agriculture, the basis of that same development, is surprising since, at the present stage of preparation of major projects, Benin does not have the human, capital and structural resources required for their implementation. Also, the narrowness of the Benin market may be a limiting factor in the production of commodities such as sugar and oil. There are, of course, export markets such as Nigeria or Niger. But will these always remain open, in spite of the Economic Community of West African States.

Transportation takes up 22.5 percent of the investments. This proportion is thought to be realistic in view of the interest shown by Benin itself and its foreign partners. The main projects adopted are: modernization of railroad equipment, extension of the railroad from Parakou to Niamey, and enlargement of the Cotonou port.

In the health sector, structures in stages have been devised, starting at the base: health units in villages; health centers in the districts; hospitals in the provinces.

In the education sector (which accounts for 6.6 percent of the investments), the construction of basic polytechnical school complexes is contemplated to provide job training in order to supply qualified labor.

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Both the program and the strategy adopted seem ambitious.

In fact, they do not appear to take into account the conditions resulting from the lack of substructures able to receive the contemplated investments, and from the problems connected with financing (it is not certain that foreign commitments will exceed 102 billion CFA francs).

The balance for the 3 years, i.e., about 142 billion CFA francs, will then have to be found. All the national resources will not be enough. In addition, some projects, such as the oil refinery estimated to cost 45 billion CFA francs, do not seem to be of primary importance for Benin during the coming years, if one considers its present consumption which is probably not much in excess of 100,000 tons of oil products.

These failures could be corrected since the plan is divided into three annual installments. After completion of the first installment, a conference has been organized to present the results for that year; it has permitted (no information has been published on the subject) to adjust certain data, to consider the priority given to certain projects, to add or withdraw projects. Preparation for the conference presenting the results for the second year are now said to be underway. Participants at these conferences, in addition to political authorities (party and government), are directors of studies and planning as well as directors of financial affairs and administrative directors from all ministries. At the conference, they shall undertake a critical examination of the implementation of the plan installment for the year in question.

To make an overall judgment, a foreign observer has to wait for the outcome of these conferences which enable him to evaluate the progress which has been made. Publication of the proceedings of such conferences is to be wished.

The state plan is the first plan of the military revolutionary government. Designed, realized and implemented by Benin nationals, it might be a precious tool if it were to be the subject of an exchange of views between Beninese technicians, international experts, and politicians and technicians from other countries.

This may be what prompted the announcement, a few months ago, that Benin, with assistance from the United Nations Development Program, would organize a meeting of financing institutions to get them interested in its development. We do not know yet when this meeting will be held. However, last June in Cotonou, Mr Doo Kingue, director of the United Nations Development Fund, invited some 20 ambassadors accredited to Benin to advise them on the meeting. As a result of this initiative, the financing of certain projects included in the 3-year state plan of Benin might be accelerated.

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CAMEROON

ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE SIGNED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2709

[Text] Mr Youssoufa Daouda, Cameroonism minister of the economy and the plan, Mr Hubert Dubois, ambassador of France to the United Cameroon Republic, and Mr Guy Lecamus, interim director of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, signed 7 financing agreements, of which 3 were grant agreements of the Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) and 4 loan agreements of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation.

Under three agreements, the Fund for Economic Cooperation grants Cameroon subsidies in the total amount of 545 million CFA francs.

The first of these grants, totalling 270 million CFA francs, is earmarked for the partial financing for telecommunication engineering studies for a period of 2 years. These studies, underway since 1972, have already benefited from FAC grants on the order of 485 million CFA francs.

The second grant, totalling 270 million CFA francs, concerns the continuation of the participation of the FAC in the operation of developing irrigated rice growing in the framework of the SEMRY II project.

The FAC grant, covering one year of the activities of staffing and engineering of the operation, completes actions conducted concomitantly by the World Bank, the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, and the United Republic of Cameroon.

Finally, the 3d grant, totalling 75 million CFA francs, contributes to the financing of a project which will be launched by the National Electricity Company of Cameroon (SONEL). This grant will make possible the financing of an important study of the updating of the hydroelectric sites of Cameroon and constitutes the first slice of a grant of 150 million CFA francs.

The Central Fund for Economic Cooperation is granting 4 loans to Cameroon totalling 2.75 billion CFA francs.

The first loan, amounting to 400 million CFA francs, reinforces the credit placed at the disposal of SONEL for the completion of the updating of the study of the hydroelectric sites of the country.

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The second loan, amounting to 2.16 billion CFA francs, will make possible the partial financing of a priority project of exploiting the region of southeast Benoue, the completion of which is placed under the sponsorship of the SODECOTON [expansion unknown]. This loan will enjoy favorable conditions usually granted to operations of rural development.

The operation will involve the restoration and installation of road, social (dispensaries, schools, wells, etc.) and agricultural infrastructures, as well as strengthening the staffing of peasant enterprises on the one hand, and the creation of new SODECOTON installations on the other. The whole project will be completed in 3 years.

The third loan (100 million CFA francs) is destined for the financing of the advance studies for the launching of the second phase of the South-East Benoue Project.

Finally, the fourth loan, totalling 100 million CFA francs, with favorable conditions, will be applied to the financing of the study of an irrigation project of about 2000 hectares of banana plantations with the objectives of increasing yields, improvement of quality, and regularization of production under the aegis of the Cameroonian Banana Organization (OCB).

FAC and Cameroon had already signed, on 23 May 1979, 2 agreements totalling 100 million CFA francs, each to permit the partial financing of the development of rice culture in the high valley of the Noun and the financing of geologic study and mining prospecting in the southwest of the country.

In addition, on 16 August 1979, a third agreement granting a new participation of 175 million CFA francs for the construction of the Douala-Edea section of the Transcameroon Douala-Yaounde Railroad was signed.

The grants of the Fund for Aid and Cooperation to the Cameroon economy for the present fiscal year amount to 920 million CFA francs, and with regard to the Central Fund, the agreements signed to date bring to 24.815 billion CFA francs the total of loans made to Cameroon by this financial organ since the beginning of 1979.

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CAMEROON

NEW OFFSHORE OIL DISCOVERY MADE

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 10 Oct 79 p 61

[Text] At the end of September a new petroleum deposit was discovered in Cameroon in the offshore zone, called Falaga-Sud. According to the first indications, it could turn out to be large. The American company Mobil is the operator in this deposit. The exploration permit is divided among Mobil (54 percent), Total-CFP (18 percent) and two small American companies, Ocelot IND Ltd and Dansom Oil Company, who hold the rest (28 percent).

This discovery, which confirms the importance of Cameroon in the new African petroleum geography, follows the discovery in late August of another offshore deposit 80 km south of Victoria on the H 17 Permit. The French Petroleum Company is the operator. The permit is held half by CFP and half by Mobil.

Furthermore, according to the most recent statistics, petroleum production from the Kome Marine deposit reached 500,000 tons in the first half of 1979. It can therefore be expected that Cameroonian production will exceed 1 million tons for the whole of 1979.

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CAMEROON

ACTIVITIES OF GRAIN OFFICE REPORTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2709

[Text] In June 1975 the Cameroon Government created the Grain Office to help the populations of northern Cameroon, victims of the great drought which raged over the Sahel zone of the continent from 1969 to 1972. The drought not only killed 2500 Buffon waterbuck in the Waza National Park, but also caused much harm to the local populations through a substantial loss of grain production. Hence the necessity of setting up an organization for collecting and distributing commodities of primary necessity.

The activity of the Grain Office has consisted mainly in the first year of reconditioning 447 tons of sorgho deriving from the Special Fund for Urgent Help (FSSU) created just after the drought and the great flood which ravaged the province of the North in 1970-71. The harvest of 1976-1977 saw the first intervention of the Office in the grain market with the purchase of 860 tons of millet-sorgho. This volume rose to 1990 tons in 1977-1978, reaching 4000 tons in 1978-1979, or an increase of 198 per cent.

Little by little the Grain Office added other functions such as regularizing the prices of basic grains (millet-sorgho, corn) in order to fight against speculation in the tide-over period (July-October).

The subsidies of the Cameroon Government to the Grain Office rose, says CAMEROON TRIBUNE, from 21.5 million CFA francs in 1975-1976 to 300 million for the present harvest (1978-1979).

Furthermore, the office has been receiving since 1976-1977 a grant from the FONADER [National Rural Development Fund] which enables it to fight against the enemies of the seeds and the commodities (humidity, mold, mice, rats, weevils etc.). This subsidy today has reached 35 million CFA francs.

Finally the World Food Program (PAM) is granting assistance to the office in the framework of a plan of operation signed on 24 February 1973 with the Cameroon Government for the supply of 6700 tons of grains. To date the PAM has intervened to the extent of more than 200 million CFA francs.

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Over the long term the Office envisages the possibility of creating, jointly with the SODEBLE [expansion unknown] bakery units which will make local breads with a proportion of 30 percent millet-sorgho flour and 70 percent wheat flour.

In the next few years the Grain Office could also open its own market beyond the frontiers, particularly in Nigeria, Chad, and the Central African Empire. This opening would include the possibility of trade agreements on grain prices in order to reduce illegal exports.

Furthermore it has relations with trading enterprises like SOCOOPED (Savings and Development Cooperatives Company) for the purpose of organizing, extending, and making operational distribution and collection trade channels.

Finally, the Grain Office, which buys from the peasants only the quantity of grains freed, does not use the administrative prices (in effect in the MIDEVIV [expansion unknown] and SOCOOPED stores). Its prices are much lower and the difference is between 2000 and 3000 CFA francs per grain sack of 100 kilograms.

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CAMEROON

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH FRANCE--Cameroon exported to France in the first half of 1979 465 million French francs worth of agricultural and food products, compared with 509 million in the first half of 1978, or a drop of 8.6 percent. It is becoming the 13th supplier of France in this sector. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2709] 6108

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

OPERATION 'BARRACUDA' SEEN AS TOTAL POLITICAL FIASCO

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 15-28 Oct 79 p 25

[Article by Ginette Cot]

[Text] A model military raid, operation "Barracuda" is a total political fiasco.

Never had the policy of Paris in Africa, even in France, evoked such violent reactions and been the subject of such critical and severe examination. Socialists and communists, in particular, are asking for serious inquiries and the resignation of the ministers and officials most involved, including Messrs Journiac, counselor for African affairs at the Elysee; Francois-Poncet, minister of foreign affairs; and Galley, minister of cooperation. The latter will be recorded in history as the man who had dared to describe the massacre of Bangui infants as a "pseudo-event," a massacre already known throughout the world. Judging by the French press, it seems that a sharper look should be taken at the Giscardian strategy in Africa and that the dangers involved in this overtly interventionist and colonial policy and the shame it reflects on France should be revealed.

With regard to the Central African mess, the French leaders are daily being placed increasingly on the defensive. We have seen this quite well in the National Assembly. Although Prime Minister Barre expressed "the total solidarity of the government with Mr Galley" and confirmed that the latter "has the esteem and confidence of the president of the republic," Mr Francois-Poncet, to the boos of the opposition, engaged in a perilous exercise of tightrope walking in an effort to justify the unjustifiable. And he concluded: "The presence of our soliders in Central Africa will be tightly limited in time and objective (and) will end as soon as the Central African authorities ask that this be done." That is pure hypocrisy, as Mr Dacko is evidently nothing more than a puppet whose strings are being pulled by Paris.

However, the minister of foreign affairs also said, "The representatives of the other parties in opposition to the Bokassa government have all arrived or are about to arrive in Bangui; and France does not intend to make a choice...."

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That remains to be seen--even though Ange Patasse, former Bokassa prime minister has indeed returned to Bangui.

The French Government was never more brilliant before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly. Mr Galley, assailed by the flood of questions from the parliamentarians, did not offer the slightest credible reply.

As for the French president, Giscard d'Estaing, he was put on the spot in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, on 2 October, during a televised debate. Six German journalists, less respectful than the customary interviewers of the president, asked him questions which annoyed him to the point that the answer--a not very convincing answer, moreover--to one of the questions at best was given in a far from friendly tone: "The idea that France is seeking economic advantages in Chad or the Central African Republic, which are among the 24 poorest countries in the world and whose people live exclusively on French aid is offensive and stupid."

And it is certainly not by chance that, the day after this presidential performance which was rather unfortunate for the public image of France, the COGEMA [Nuclear Materials General Company], a subsidiary of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), a member of the URCA [expansion unknown], the Central African company responsible for the study and development of the Bakouma uranium deposit, stated in a communique that the extremely high costs of exploitation did not permit contemplation of work on this deposit for the foreseeable future. Uranium, therefore, and the other mining resources have nothing to do with the French intervention!...In Bangui or elsewhere!...Nothing more than the strategic position of the former empire in the heart of Africa!...

What naive person would they still have believe that?

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

FRANCE SAID TO HAVE USED COLONIAL METHODS

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 15-28 Oct 79 pp 23-25

[Article by Ginette Cot]

[Text] The methods used by the erstwhile metropolis to install a president in Bangui recall "the cursed colonial days."

As concerns France's African policy, it was already known that an impassable gulf separated words from acts; and that, to take only one well-known example, the slogan: "Africa for the Africans," had only been tossed out for show.

It was already known that nothing, to judge by the realities experienced, permitted the according of any belief in the desire oft proclaimed by Paris of establishing new ties with Africa, with no more stench of colonialism, opening a dialog leading "progressively" to an "active and radiant solidarity" or providing "assistance which corresponds not to the remembrances of the past but to the call of the future."*

Finally, it was known, and one could sense this on many occasions, that, on the banks of the Seine, very little attention is paid to public opinion....However, one might have thought that with the military interventions in the Shaba, Chad and Western Sahara, Giscardian France over the last few years had reached the limits possible in the role that it had conferred upon itself as the chief gendarme of imperialism on the continent. One might also have thought that the efforts of direct colonial reconquest expended with the help of secret agents and mercenaries, after the outcry aroused by Bob Denard's "victory" in the Comoros and the bitter setback which took place on 16 January 1977 in Benin, would take the form of such offences. This was not the case.

With operation "Barracuda" and its developments, they went even further, as far as during the era when the Western powers indulged in the carving up of the African Continent.

*Valerie Giscard d'Estaing: Speech at Kigali and Abidjan.

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Thus it was that David Dacko, preceded by the bayonets of the French army, returned to Bangui during the night of 20-21 September and was elevated to the position of head of state, in replacement of his cousin, of whom he had been the personal adviser, since August 1976 and up to the very last months of the "empire."

It was under the protection of French paratroops that the "new" president, having been installed in office a short time earlier, read a statement over the radio announcing the overthrow of the "executioner" of Berengo and the establishment of the republic. French military personnel, whose contingent of 1,000 men at the end of September was forced to reinforce itself day after day, were thenceforth to maintain order in central Africa.

As for the Central Africans, they will never have knowledge of the secrets of the Bokassa reign, inside information or the compromising plots which permitted this former protege of Paris and son of the French "colonial army" to remain in power for 13 years: the occupants took pains to clean the Berengo "palace" and to remove all the files--right down to the most insignificant record of accounts--to the embassy of France. And it is certain that the household also began in this way elsewhere. Questioned on this subject by a member of parliament, Mr Galley replied that he did not believe in the accuracy of the reports published on this subject. Decidedly, this minister does not know anything about what is going on in Africa!

Does he at least know that, faithful to the tradition of the operations of conquest of the past, the participants in the "Barracuda" raid, sensing the discontent of the Central Africans, hastily distributed supplies of beer to the popular quarters of Bangui? When people get intoxicated with alcohol and music, they forget to think, it is felt. Similarly, when government workers are paid, the popularity of the regime is assured, it is thought. Also the coffers of the state were quickly filled (does Mr Galley know by whom). And David Dacko was able to announce to merchants that they would be exempted from the payment of all taxes and assessments until the end of the year. Who, then, Mr Gallery, is going to bail out the state budget?

The bringing-into-line process, to avoid the term recolonization, is all too transparent. We see dozens of "technical advisers" deplanning daily at the Bangui airport. Every ministry, every bank, every national company, every public enterprise will receive its share. As for the French military personnel and gendarmes, they "will reorganize" the army, police and the gendarmerie of the Central African Republic. The presidency, solidly guarded by French paratroops and installed, as if by chance, close to the embassy of France, has obviously not been forgotten. It is true that the ambassador of France to Bangui, Robert Piquet, was not up to the task of private tutor of the new chief of state, which proved to be a terribly arduous undertaking. The latter talked too much. He said anything that came to his mind. And the "gags" were a little heavy. Also David Dacko, who was "too tired," would not give any more interviews. Except to "sure" newspapers. Thoughtfully, the Ministry of Cooperation dispatched one of its experts, Mr Charron, who will perform the duties of "adviser" of the new president. A good idea, in fact...but a little late. Swallowing his pride,

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Dacko has invited everyone to resume his position. The youth of Central Africa should "stop mixing in policy." In Central Africa is not policy a matter for the public safety government, which was formed in haste and in which, with few exceptions, the same things are being done and we are starting over again? Is it not rather, quite simply a matter for the Elysee?

For it is in Paris that everything is conceived, down to the details. Was this not seen in the Ange Patasse affair? France is going so far as to operate a triage among the opponents contending for the succession and to decide which of the Central African citizens can return to their country. It is true that the business sectors do not have short memories and have not forgotten that former Prime Minister Bokassa in 1974 had granted the right to mining prospection of all of the Central African subsoils to the ALUSUISSE [?Swiss Aluminum Company]. That along with the implications for the French interested in eventual exploitation of the uranium which the Bakouma mines have in abundance. Bad feelings are tenacious in those sectors! Is not policy in Central Africa also a matter of the French troops who are there to prevent any revolt and are already moving toward the northwestern part of the country, with the strong temptation to reactivate the Bouar base?

What is certain is that "Bangui-la-Coquette" is no longer just a Paris faubourg; it has become the veritable capital of the Central African Republic.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

FRANCE SAID TO HAVE SCOFFED AT RIGHTS OF CENTRAL AFRICANS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 10 Oct 79 pp 26-27, 28

[Text] The Rights of Man Have Triumphed, By the Grace of France. But Democracy Has Suffered a Defeat.

Abidjan. In the clammy heat of the Ivorian capital a man is relearning how to live incognito. After having occupied the "front page" of the international press both for his pageantry and his crimes, Jean Bedel Bokassa of Berengo of Bobangui is adapting himself to exile.

Upon his arrival in Abidjan on 24 September, "picked up" by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, whom he was pleased to call "his father," the former emperor of Central Africa was first lodged in the Little Palace.

After his return to Abidjan on 22 September the Ivorian chief of state had convoked a meeting of the enlarged political bureau of the party. Political leaders, religious leaders (guests) and trade unionists approved the welcome to Bokassa. The latter could come.

Bokassa waited until a residence was prepared for him at Yamoussoukro, the native village of the Ivorian chief of state. When the thing is done, the matter will be closed.

"David Dacko demanded in vain the extradition of Bokassa; Houphouet-Boigny will not give him up to him." The statement is that of an African diplomat, who adds: "If Dacko continues to insist, it will be enough for Houphouet to send him an emissary who will tell him: 'That's enough!' and Dacko will be quiet." There is an historical reason for this confidence: in the saga of the first African chiefs of state, David Dacko was among the unconditional supporters of Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the uncontested leader, during the fifties, of the RDA (African Democratic Rally) from which later emerged the leaders of French-speaking Africa. This image of spiritual father has conferred on "The Old Man"--as they have always called President Houphouet-Boigny--an authority which can be disputed only by the Senegalese Leopold Singhor and the Cameroonian Ahmadou Ahidjo today. "In addition," an Ivorian official told us, "The Ivory Coast did not refer to its tradition of hospitality by chance. If the crimes of Bokassa are unpardonable, it must be

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remembered that Houphouet has always refused to surrender political refugees. Therefore the Guinean oppositionists demanded by Sekou Toure have never been sent to Guinea."

By "placing" Bokassa under the wings of Houphouet, the French president, Mr Valery Giscard d'Estaing, therefore apparently saved the head of the sinister emperor.

Thus everything was carried off as though the former emperor had been removed because he had become too much of a burden. But the team which replaced him is more controllable than ever.

The new president? He is a former president. Former president of the Central African Republic, overthrown by Bokassa, whose personal adviser he later became. The vice president? Also a former official. Former prime minister of Bokassa, whose unconditional herald he was to the point of denying right up to the end--that is to say, to the point of ridicule, and up to the departure of the emperor--that there had ever been any massacres in Central Africa. To the point also that in Bangui and in the press they liked to call him "Mr Denial."

Besides these two "bosses," who today pass for the overthrowers of the tyrant, the former comrades of Bokassa are still there. General Maymoko, acknowledged to have been guilty of having killed with his own hands, in January, a 13-year-old child in the streets of Bangui, was worried only because on 29 September he was suspected of having desired to kill David Dacko. Colonel Inga, grand master of the killings in April, drives about in complete freedom in Bangui in a military jeep and in uniform. The political face of Central Africa has thus been only a kaleidoscope in these recent weeks. They shuffle the cards. But they deal the same hand.

The master of this game? It is France and none but France, as clumsy as it is indecent. The communique published on 26 September 1979 by the government at Paris concerning the intervention in Central Africa speaks with unspeakable eloquence in this regard.

In the first place France seems to congratulate itself that the dictatorship was overthrown "without spilling a drop of blood." To which the opposition, in the voice of Francois Mitterand, first secretary of the Socialist Party, retorts: "Blood has not been spilled? But it has been spilling for years in Bangui!" And they were aware of it in Paris! The proof is that in May, when the scandal of the massacres of Central African children broke out, they wanted to ignore it. Quite consistently, the minister of cooperation, Mr Robert Galley--the expression will stick to him--at that time dared to call the killings "pseudo-events."

In the second place the French Government claims that, at the time of the French-African summit meeting at Kigali (Rwanda) on 21 and 22 May, it was

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"the president of the [French] Republic [who] proposed the establishment of commission of confirmation composed exclusively of African judges."

The comment of an African statesman who participated in the closed session of this summit meeting: "It's false! The establishment of this commission was decided in three stages. First Mobutu spent a whole night trying to convince Bokassa himself to ask for a commission of inquiry. Then Bokassa, at the end of the summit meeting, yielded and himself designated the countries which he wanted to see composing this commission. He even proposed Gabon, but Bongo refused. Finally, when the matter was decided, Giscard congratulated them by saying that that handled it with regard to public opinion."

A third justification of the French intervention: "To the anguished appeals which the former president of the Central African Republic, the acting prime minister, and other Central African officials to liberate their country from oppression the government replied that France was ready to satisfy their request for aid when it was expressed on the spot by those who had the right, besides the fallen sovereign, to represent Central Africa." Actually the "Central African authorities" did not exist. David Dacko? He was in France, and to have him "express on the spot" a request of aid to France, it was necessary to transport him to Bangui in a French Transall during the night of 20 September.

This underdeveloped scenario had already been tested in Gabon by the French services (JEUNE AFRIQUE No 978). Overthrown by a coup d'etat while he was in France, Gabonese President Leon M'ba owed his staying power only to the swiftness of the French troops. Intervening at the "written request" of the old Vice President Yhembit, whom the men of the French secret services just had time to have sign a call for help composed in advance.

The same maneuver was used this time in Central Africa. In a less hypocritical manner. That is to say clumsier. Which caused one African ambassador in France to say: "From the time of De Gaulle and Jacques Foccart [at that time secretary general for African and Malagasy Affairs] the French secret services have been artists. They bring rain and good weather in Africa, with as much efficiency as discretion. With Giscard d'Estaing and Rene Journiac they still intervene, but without flourish and with heavy feet." The proof? French troops are masters of Central Africa today as in the good old days of the colony. The ambassador of France screens the visitors of President David Dacko in the presidential palace. Installed--oh the irony--on Valery-Giscard-d-Estaing Square in Bangui. But could France have done otherwise? Eighteen months from the presidential elections the chief of state could not maintain his doubtful friendship with a Bokassa without befouling himself. If the latter had only killed in 1982, the grumbling of French opinion would not have had electoral fallout. That is a good French motive. The Central African motive is that painful confession of an adversary of the emperor: "Nothing can be done in our country without France." And finally an African motive is

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that other confession, sincere, but dishonorable, of a statesman: "The French intervention in Central Africa was possible only thanks to us, the Africans. It demonstrates that we are incapable of changing our fate without an outside power."

Under the empire, actually, Central Africa was a desert. An almost complete political void. The opposition? In voluntary exile, like Abel Goumba, who has become the leader of the Ubangi Patriotic Front (FPO) based in the Congo. In prison, as was the case of Barthelemy Yangongo, former minister of information who had tried to write that Bokassa was a dictator! The others were not revealed until later.

The only real oppositionists, true to themselves, were the students. They revolted in April to demand salaries for their parents. But in Central Africa as elsewhere, the uprisings of youth or often retrieved by professionals in political opportunism. The only difference: France was substituted for the Central African demagogues, not so much to overthrow Bokassa as to regain power. In defense of the Central Africans: the intellectual and moral slavery and the stupefaction organized by Bokassa were such that all the slightest political desires evaporated.

Since then it has been sadly significant that David Dacko, placed in power by France, was allowed to proclaim: "I thank that country which has been protecting us for 66 years. I mean France." Twenty years after what they persist in calling independence, such sincerity can inspire only the most humiliating concerns among the Central Africans who are today becoming aware that everything has to be redone in their country.

For Bokassa is gone, well and good. And no one regrets it. Some prefer to forget, or even to make people forget that he existed. The rights of man have triumphed. So let it be. Gesta dei per Francos ("the works of God performed by the French"). But if by the grace of France this departure is the victory of the rights of man, it also sanctifies the defeat of democracy.

By aspiring to substitute itself for the Central African people, whether or not in the name of the rights of man, France has quite simply scoffed at the right of a people. By applauding the French intervention, the Africans have resigned their responsibilities. A resignation which resembles a renunciation.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

FRENCH PARATROOP SURVEILLANCE DEPLORED

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 15-18 Oct 79 pp 25-26

[Article by Mariam Sysle]

[Text] Paris was able in time to keep the former emperor from talking but did not succeed in keeping the "new" president quiet as quickly.

In preparation for 2 months, the Bangui military operation was conducted expeditiously.

However, from the political standpoint there were also some hitches.

The jumble of events began at dawn on the very day of Bangui's "liberation" by paratroops from the 3d and 8th Regiments of marine parachute infantrymen when, arriving from Tripoli, the deposed emperor's "Caravelle," instead of proceeding to Switzerland and his numbered bank accounts, as it seems to have been planned, appeared in the skies of France.

What was to be done with this former French army captain who, not too long ago, was received with much pomp and great honors at the Elysee? What was to be done with this bemedaled member of the Free French Forces all of whose caprices had been encouraged and covered up? What was to be done with this French voter who had been the first chief of state of the African Continent to receive President Valery Giscard d'Estaing? What was to be done with this sometime inhabitant of Sologne and Normandy who knew how to organize safaris so ably for his "dear relative"? This man who had made Giscard and honorary citizen of Central Africa was nothing more today than a troublesome and explosive package.

Sixty hours of quarantine on the Evreux military base, in Normandy, did not take care of the problem posed by this spoilsport who was taking advantage of his dual nationality, of his past friends and his chateaus in Sologne to take refuge in his second fatherland.

If he was a Frenchman, was it not necessary to arrest him as a criminal guilty notably of massacring infants and to try him? Say then! And what if he started to tell who-knows-what to who-knows-whom!

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It took an entire weekend of searching at the Office of the Keeper of the Seals to discover, contrary to all expectations and quite tardily, that Bokassa, despite being an announced voter of the Giscardian majority, had lost his French nationality for failing at the time of independence to take an "oath of allegiance" [declaration recognitive].

However, if he were a foreigner, why was he not sent back to his country as required by law instead of laboriously seeking a country of exile which was finally found in the Ivory Coast? The question will remain unanswered.

Like Gratien Pognon

However, that unexpected stopover was not to be the most serious matter. It is necessary to recognize the fact that David Dacko, without wishing to, was to do a lot and quickly to dispel the mystery which might have surrounded his return to power.

The first 10 days of his "reign," under surveillance, however, were enough to show him for what he is...And the African people know today better than yesterday what they can expect from this chief of state who stepped out of a "Transall."

Officially, the justification for operation "Barracuda was based--and is still based--on two fundamental arguments. It was a question at one and the same time of assuring the protection of the 3,000 French in Central Africa and responding to urgent appeals for help from several Central African leaders already engaged in the action. Forgetting perhaps that he had presented himself as a great opponent of Bokassian tyranny and that he had claimed to have secretly returned to Bangui--from whence he had departed on the pretext of an illness in June 1979--several days before the French military intervention, David Dacko, during a press conference on 24 September, was to let the cat out of the bag [vendre aux trois quarts la meche]. In fact, he revealed that he had arrived in Bangui in "an aircraft with all lights out," only a few minutes before reading his infamous statement over the radio, that is, after the first French paratroops, who landed on 20 September at around 2300 hours had surrounded the principal strategic points.

Curiously, this scenario brings another to mind: on 16 January 1977, Gratien Pognon, too, was waiting, with a statement in his pocket, for the "victory" of the mercenaries with whom he had just landed in Cotonou. The only difference was that David Dacko had traveled from Libreville to Bangui in the company of paratroops from the very official French army...And what had failed in Benin did not encounter any hitches in Central Africa.

It was not surprising, therefore, that during this same press conference the new Central African president, in an effort to outline the principal points of his future foreign policy, stated in plain language that France would continue to be his principal backup and support. One would have suspected as much.

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On the other hand, the last thing one expected was that Dacko would dare to say out loud that the French army would remain in the country "10 years if necessary."

And what, on this occasion, disconcerted everybody--including Pretoria which nonetheless picked up the ball on the rebound--and left his French friends themselves flabbergasted, was when Bokassa's successor dared to say, before the entire assembled foreign press, that he was ready to cooperate with South Africa, to initiate diplomatic relations with the country of apartheid, as it was a question "of putting an end to hypocritical attitudes on this subject."

Duly admonished, no doubt, David Dacko on the day after attempted to retrace his steps, saying that it had only been a "joke...After 13 years of suffering, we have the right to work off our frustrations." A fine farce! Which was to be followed by other farces of the same kind.

The condemning to death of Bokassa which was announced over the radio was another farce, this time by young journalists! As for the request for the extradition of the former emperor, which the Central African president wished to address to the Ivory Coast, it seemed to remain a dead letter. For "good relations with Abidjan take precedence over everything else," the ineffable Dacko remarked. And no doubt it was also a farce to boast of having met beforehand with several African chiefs of state and informing them of what was planned! For, at the beginning of October he denied that he had ever seen and told anybody about anything...

Yet another farce was the purging of the state apparatus of persons most closely associated with the tyrannical and corrupt Bokassa regime: a half dozen persons were arrested.

These tragicomic blunders are endless which, like bubbles, rise from the foul swamp in which the French leaders and their puppets are bogged down. However, it is better not to laugh about these blunders too much, as they illustrate a harsh reality: no sooner rid of their despot, a people gagged up to then find itself again under surveillance. This time the surveillance of the French paratroops who reportedly have already begun to "break" the Central African Republic into an island in the Ubangi.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DRAWING UP OF 1981-1985 PLAN BEGINS

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2581

[Text] Last 4 August Prime Minister Henri Maidou of the Central African Republic formally opened the work of drawing up the fourth 5-year plan (1981-1985).

The prime minister first spoke with dissatisfaction of the way in which the preceding development plans have been carried out. During the second 5-year plan (1971-1975), public investments totaling 38 billion CFA francs were completed. The third plan (1976-1980) called for 140 billion, but only 60 billion will be completed. Those 60 billion are distributed as follows: infrastructure, 55 percent; productive sector, 30 percent; and social sectors, 15 percent.

Maidou said that from 1967 to 1977 the GDP rose from 40 billion to 90 billion CFA francs in current francs, for an increase of 8.5 percent--or only 2.2 percent in constant francs. Since population growth is estimated at 2.5 percent per year, the per capita GDP has in fact declined over the past 10 years.

The second and third 5-year plans have therefore not resulted in greater per capita income or, consequently, a general rise in the standard of living.

Maidou attributed this situation to the lack of adequate numbers of skilled cadres and the state's financial difficulties. In order to correct the situation during the upcoming plan, the government is going to make every effort to direct investments into the productive sectors so as to produce revenues yielding budgetary resources.

The prime minister then reviewed the various sectors of the economy, indicating in each case the desirable orientations for the next plan.

Rural sector: The development of this sector over the past few years has not met the expectations of Central African authorities. The drop in cotton production, which fell from 60,000 tons in 1969-1970 to 32,000 tons in 1978-1979, is causing particular concern.

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From now on the emphasis will be placed on integrated regional development that will be supported by the existing structures: the Farm Prices Stabilization Fund, the UCCA [Central African Cotton Union], ACADOP [expansion unknown], ADECAF [expansion unknown], and so on. National and regional agencies for integrated development will be given the responsibility for rural development and will be provided with increased funds for that purpose. The ministries involved will thus be relieved of management tasks and can devote themselves to their job of planning.

Food crops have been neglected for several years, but under this plan they should be given new impetus in order to insure better supplies for consumer centers.

Stockraising has developed favorably, with cattle increasing by about 17 percent annually since 1971. Until now the state's efforts have been concentrated primarily on sanitary measures, a task that will be handled increasingly by the stockraisers themselves. Government authorities will now direct their activity toward the protection of pastureland, which in some places is threatened by too great a concentration of livestock. The raising of trypanosomiasis-resistant breeds and farming with draft animals will also be given new impetus.

Forests: The development of this sector is basically the responsibility of private firms, and the state intervenes only in the area of research. Forest production has returned to the level it had reached before the crisis of 1975, but its development is still being held back by difficulties with removal of the product. The state's activity must be directed primarily to rebuilding the forest inventory.

Mining: The state will continue its action against illegal exports and will make every effort to encourage exploration for deposits of ores and metals having a high unitary price (such as copper).

Industry: Overall, industrial production has risen at an annual rate of 7 percent. From 1975 to 1978, investments totaling 7 billion CFA francs were completed, mainly by the private sector.

The main problems are in the state-owned firms. The prime minister admitted that their development has acted as a brake on economic growth. Some of them, such as ICAT [Central African Textile Industry], are operating far below their financing capacity. The government will therefore try to involve the private sector in its economic recovery policy and put certain firms partially into private hands.

The government hopes that more jobs will be created in the private sector than in government departments, something that has not been the case so far.

Infrastructure: As far as domestic transportation is concerned, the state is setting two basic objectives:

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1. To provide the necessary funds for road maintenance, since a huge program for repair and modernization is underway.
2. To develop rural trails, in large part as a consequence of the projects for integrated rural development.

River traffic has declined steadily since 1971, although 7 billion CFA francs have been invested in that sector in order to increase its transportation capacity. The poor management of the ACCF [Central African River Communication Agency] is the main cause of this decline, and the government hopes to remedy the situation by bringing in a private partner and making the trans-Equatorial artery once again the Central African Republic's preferred path to the outside world.

Education: The educational system's efficiency is too low, especially in primary education. This situation is due in large part to the lack of classrooms and teachers as well as to the linguistic problems encountered by the pupils.

During the upcoming plan the objective will be to set in motion a reform of the educational system. It will be adapted to the needs of economic and social development and in particular to the need to link education to the requirements of the labor market. The reform is to result in a better adaptation of syllabuses and the establishment of a detailed school map. It is to be accompanied by an increase in the number of classrooms.

In conclusion, Maidou expressed the hope that the next plan will not be simply a catalog of projects--something that was more or less the case with the preceding plans--but rather a tool for reflection on development. Development will not be effective unless all the economic sectors are integrated as a means of achieving a real improvement in living conditions.

The prime minister concluded his speech by saying that the situation "is not conducive to optimism," and he asked the Central Africans to get down to work.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

STUDENTS TO USSR--By means of an order dated 30 August 1979, the chief of state has lifted a ban that since 25 May 1977 had prohibited Central African students and pupils from studying in the USSR. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2582] 11798

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CHAD

THREAT OF CONFLICT'S RESUMPTION, NATION'S BREAKUP CONTINUES

Paris AFRIQUE ASIE in French 1-14 Oct 79 p 16

[Text] Less than a month after the conclusion, last 21 August at Lagos, of the 9-point agreement on "national reconciliation" ratified by the 11 Chadian politico-military factions, one has been pessimistic with regard to the ultimate evolution of the situation. Confusion actually continued to prevail in Ndjamen, and the implementation of the platform around which the apparent unanimity was achieved--not without difficulty moreover--seems to be meeting many obstacles. Everything has been going as though the differences painstakingly toned down at Lagos were threatening to resurface.

Thus, for example, the "southern" faction, represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Kamougue, chief of the Chadian Armed Forces (FAT) and vice president of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), had presented a 5-point list of grievances after a tour of the southern regions. This faction asked in particular for the expulsion of Hissein Habre from the government team, opposed the creation of a Ministry of Religious Affairs by insisting on the lay character of the Chadian state, and again demanded the posts of director of security and head of the general staff of the future integrated national army. Finally it challenged the distribution of ministerial posts, particularly the key posts of defense and interior, which have been entrusted to representatives of the northern factions.

Furthermore, the problem of the withdrawal of some 2500 men of the French intervention force, provided in the Lagos agreement, was itself the subject of controversy. It is known that, according to this agreement, all the parties "recognize unanimously that the presence of the French troops constitutes an obstacle to the search for a peaceful and significant reconciliation and a solution of the Chadian problem," and that the GUNT should proceed with their evacuation. Nevertheless, asserting that the Transitional National Union Government had not been installed, and that "for obvious reasons no one desires the complete departure of the French forces before the effective establishment of the neutral force" (which will be composed of the Congo, Benin, and Guinea), Mr Goukouni Oueddei, president of the GUNT, secured the interruption of the process of evacuation begun

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at Ati and Moussoro. In this he was supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Kamougue, who had expressed the desire that the French troops "stay a little longer with the neutral force in order to aid the demilitarization and disarmament of the capital." However the Chad Provisional Common Action Front (FACP) was surprised by the action of Goukouni Oueddei with the French Government, and asserted that it reserved the right to review its representation within the interim committee....

This series of incidents and about-faces shows the extent of the complexity of the situation. One may wonder whether the team which emerged from the Lagos negotiations properly reflects the Chadian geopolitical physiognomy, or whether, on the contrary, as some circles in Ndjamena fear, it is a still-born solution, the precarious result of a compromise reached among certain powers outside Chad which have discreetly used the carrot and the stick temporarily to put a dangerously lethal crisis within parentheses. By the same token one wonders whether the new team--which some people rightly or wrongly compare with a "can of worms" in which ethnic concerns would prevail--is capable of suppressing its personal ambitions in order to devote itself to the huge tasks of restoring the economic, financial, social, and defense situation of a country bled white by 13 years of war. What is certain, in any case, is that the threat of a resumption of the conflict and a breakup of the country persists.

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

BRIEFS

REFUGEES ASKED TO RETURN--Equatorial Guinean refugees residing in Cameroon, estimated to number about 40,000, are being asked by their embassy in Yaounde to return to their country. In a communique made public on 12 September, the embassy says that "peace and respect for human rights are now observed throughout the national territory" and that "the government of Equatorial Guinea formally promises to guarantee the safety of all Equatorial Guinean nationals." According to the communique, the Cameroonian Government has agreed to contribute to their repatriation by placing all the available material means and means of security at their disposal. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2582] 11798

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GHANA

BRIEFS

POSSIBLE BRITISH MILITARY TRAINING -- According to the British weekly SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, Great Britain might help Ghana restructure its army, train officers and soldiers and provide new arms. The weekly specified that confidential discussions on this subject have been opened between the London and Accra governments. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANNEENS in French 12 Oct 79 p 2767] 8463

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LIBERIA

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT PROMOTING PRIVATE INDUSTRY--The Liberian Government is going to propose to the private sector that the latter buy certain state-owned companies or purchase an interest in them. This was announced by the NEW LIBERIAN, the official organ of the Liberian Ministry of Information. In this connection, the newspaper published an exclusive interview with Byron Tarr, the Ministry of Finance's general controller of state-owned companies. Tarr stated that such measures are justified by the fact that some of those companies "are emptying the state's coffers rather than helping to fill them." He added that "in a capitalist system, people motivated by profit should work in a more sustained manner in a private company than in the public sector." While acknowledging that certain branches, "such as the port administration or the Liberian Water Company, cannot be managed by the private sector because of their special nature," Tarr feels that "the state-owned companies will undoubtedly make no substantial contribution to the Liberian economy in the near future" because of certain fundamental problems such as recruitment, an inadequate marketing policy, or the indiscipline of the employees." He made it clear in the interview that President Tolbert has already approved the sale of two state-owned companies. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2577] 11798

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MADAGASCAR

AQUACULTURE PLANS DETAILED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS 12 Oct 79 p 2778

[Article: "The Big Island At the Time of Aquaculture"]

[Text] Free stretches of water in Madagascar represent a surface area of approximately 550,000 hectares. Many varieties of fish are found in the rivers and in the various stretches of water (carps, trouts, black-bass, tilapias, etc., as well as eels of all sizes), the national information Agency TARATRA reminds us in a note stressing the role played by rice-paddy aquaculture as a complementary source of protein-rich food for the Malagasy. As a rule, fish is also very helpful in reducing rice-borer infestation of rice stalks, thus contributing to a slight increase in rice-yields.

At the Forestry and Water Resources department of the Ministry of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, a special section is in charge of the development of aquaculture and continental fisheries. This development activity is very important in view of the overall protein-deficiency in the people's diet.

According to an official of this section, the meat and fish shortage has been established to be about 20,000 tons per year and is increasing at the rate of 3 percent per year.

The role of the special section in the development of fishing and aquaculture can be summarized as follows:

- to popularize fishing and fish-breeding techniques;
- to insure technical and job training of fishermen and fish-breeding instructors;
- to promote the use of water stretches;
- to adapt fishing regulations to economic, political and social realities;
- to use fishery research to select species suitable for food or which are of economic interest, taking present regulations into account;
- to develop fish-breeding in rice paddies;
- to study the exploitation and development of sea-culture in mangrove and lagoon areas;
- to rationalize the marketing of fish.

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The operation covers all of the territory. As far as aquaculture is concerned, the production of royal carp alevins at the three main stations, i.e. Analabe, Sisaony and Ambatofotsy-Ambatolampy, was 700,000 in 1976-1977 and 900,000 in 1977-1978. The distribution of these alevins to rural communities takes place from the end of October until mid-March. On 31 December 1978, 210,000 alevins had been distributed under excellent conditions.

In addition, research work and work on techniques of fish-breeding (associated fish breeding, "pig-fish" in Ambatolampy) and reproduction (induced reproduction in royal carps) are also carried out. Finally, new species are being introduced ("acadja" and "trabaques" in the Pangalanes) and a pilot breeding center for intensive breeding of "chanos" ("vango") in Antsiranana.

One of the main objectives of the "chanos" breeding project involves preparing for and developing coastal aquaculture. This is an entirely new field which is of particular importance in view of the enormous fish-breeding potential of the mangrove zone and the adjoining lands, which represent a surface area of some 300,000 hectares extending over all of the west coast of Madagascar, from Antsiranana at the northern tip to Morombo (Mangoky River delta) and Tulear in the southwest.

The development of these low tidal salt lands, unsuitable for agriculture, offers fish-breeding a wide field of expansion.

In order to promote their development, the construction of two coastal aquicultural centers, which would be dependent on the tides, is contemplated; they would be used to perfect breeding techniques for certain species of fish, and to gather economic data on the subject, prior to popularizing breeding of these fish. This type of fish-breeding differs considerably from traditional carp and tilapia breeding which involves, among other means, intensive feeding, a prerequisite for growth and production; in sea-culture, on the other hand, the fish bred are essentially species feeding on micro-organisms, for which it is sufficient to provide an environment favorable to the growth of algae in the breeding basins, and to maintain its productivity by adequate water management.

As part of the aquaculture project, construction of a coastal aquicultural center dependent on the tides is planned for 1978-1981 in the Antsiranana area.

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MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH SEYCHELLES--A Malagasy delegation has just spent about 10 days in Seychelles where it had conversations with Seychelles port authorities, following the signature, last July, of a maritime agreement between Seychelles and Madagascar. At the time, conversations had taken place in Antananarivo between the head of the state-owned company Secren and a Seychellois delegation headed by the minister of transportation and tourism, Mr Mathew Servina. The conversations which have just taken place bore on the construction of a dry dock in Seychelles, on technical assistance and the training of Seychellois technicians, and on the procedure for the overhaul of Seychellois ships until the time when the dry dock is ready. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS 12 Oct 79 p 2778] 9294

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MALAWI

BRIEFS

AIR MALAWI REDUCES ACTIVITIES--As the result of financial difficulties, the national airline company, Air Malawi, has made the decision to get rid of its VC 10 CL and suspend its flights to the island of Mauritius. Flights to Europe (London and Amsterdam) in Vickers aircraft will cease on 30 October 1979, while the weekly Blantyre-Plaisance flight, serviced by a BAC 1-11 was to end on 30 September. Henceforth, only British Airways will service Lusaka and Malawi, departing from London on Thursday, with a return flight on the following day. With the sale of its only mail plane, Air Malawi's air fleet is reduced to one BAC 1-11 which will now make only the flights to Lusaka, Nairobi and Johannesburg; one Vickers Viscount to Lusaka and Nairobi; one Hawker Siddeley 748 for flights to Lusaka, Beira and for domestic flights to Lilongwe and Mzuzu; and two Britton Norman Islanders which will service Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Karonga. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2715] 8143

GENERAL ELECTRIC MISSION--Following the visit in May 1979 by a mission from the South African company, General Electric (GEC), two representatives from the company visited Blantyre at the end of August to finalize the initiatives undertaken 3 months earlier. One of the representatives, Mr Herran, from the energy division, proposed during his talks with the appropriate authorities to begin a program for the training of Malawian technicians in Johannesburg in the sectors of manufacture, repair and maintenance of transformers and assembly of cables, while the second, Mr Penaluna, studied the possibilities of the local market for products in the GEC line and attempted to find 10 agents and distributors for his electric motors. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2715] 8143

BRAZILIAN LOAN--After a short visit by Mr Eberhardt, the consul of Brazil to Malawi, he returned to his country. President of the company, Max Eberhardt Industry and Commerce, the first firm to engage in commercial activities with Malawi in 1975, the diplomat had arrived with a \$1.5 million loan in his luggage, destined to encourage the import of Brazilian goods and services to strengthen the ties existing between the two countries. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2715] 8143

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MOZAMBIQUE

NEXT DECADE'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, PLANS DETAILED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANNEENS in French 12 Oct 79 p 2781

[Article: "The Economic Perspectives for the 1980-1990 Decade"; passages enclosed in slantlines, printed in italics]

[Text] Next year should mark a turning point in the economic history of Mozambique. As a matter of fact, a large number of objectives set by the directives of the FRELIMO will then be met, and the authorities will have to plan those to be achieved during the decade ending in 1990, based on current realities -- specifically, the fact that, not including production for domestic consumption, the gross national product is on the order of 70 million contos.

The authorities believe that the next decade will have to be a decade of radical transformation of the country in all areas: agriculture, energy, mining, industry, fishing, transportation, education, health and national defense.

-- Agriculture -- The agricultural development of Mozambique is based on both small and large projects. To quote President Samora Machel's own words in a recent speech, the next decade will see "the completion of the /cooperativization/ of the family sector, urbanization, socialization, and a relative mechanization of agriculture." This decade should bring an end to the process of communal villages, based on socialist property and production. When applied to /cotton/, cooperativization should, according to the planners in Maputo, make it possible for the yield to go up from 100 - 200 kilograms per hectare to more than 1000 kilograms per hectare, improving the standard of living of growers in the same proportions. Substantial progress is also expected in the sector of /fruits/ (citrus fruits, pineapples, bananas, avocados, mangos) intended for local consumption as well as for export and in the sector of by-products of raising livestock (meat, milk, butter, cheese, poultry, eggs).

/Farming by irrigation/ is to be developed. Some progress has already been made in the valleys of the Limpopo and the Incomati. The next decade will see the completion of the Angonia project, not to speak of the projects in the valleys of the Save, the Lurio, the Lugenda, the Montepuez and, especially, the Zambezi, which will have repercussions in the industrial sector.

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-- Energy and Industry -- Irrigation and energy go hand in hand. The /electrification/ of the North Central region and Southern region of Mozambique will result in an industrial development which in turn will have an impact on agriculture, in that it will make possible the establishment of a chemical industry centered on fertilizers.

The 1980-1990 decade will also be characterized by the development of organic chemistry and petrochemistry. Resources of coal and hydrocarbons will be inventoried and made profitable; they constitute -- in addition to the guano deposits -- a basic source of foreign currency necessary for financing the development of Mozambique.

The first projects in this area involve a thorough study of the /coal/ deposits in the provinces of Tete and Nyasa, as well as a study of the deposits of /hydrocarbons/. Governmental expectations also include a basic /iron and steel industry/ and the development of the metallurgical engineering industry.

The energy surplus will also produce very favorable conditions for the /non-ferrous metal industry/. With regard to the latter, it is understood that studies will be conducted to determine the exact size of the deposits of tin, zinc and bauxite. Similar operations will be carried out to make an inventory of precious and semi-precious stones.

A cartographic study will have to be made in order to determine the optimal dimensions to be given to the production units, to map the communications network and to determine the establishment of new agglomerations. Interrupted in 1975, at the time of independence, the aerial mapping should be resumed shortly by the specialized South African firm /Aircraft Operating Company/.

The production volume of the /building materials industry/ -- specifically cement -- will have to be adapted to the needs of irrigation plans as well as to those of the other industries and to those of housing. All this preliminary work will make it possible to determine the methods for the necessary financing, as well as the capacity for recourse to foreign financial markets.

In one of the next issues, we will continue an analysis of what should constitute the framework of the next development plan for Mozambique.

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

GDR SPECIALISTS KILLED, WOUNDED--Four East German "specialists" were killed and two were wounded on 12 October in Mozambique, in the vicinity of Manica, by the explosion of a misplaced hand grenade. This was announced by the GDR official news agency, known as ADN. According to this source, the explosion occurred while a damaged truck was being repaired. The news agency, which did not provide any further details, noted that the GDR minister of geology expressed his condolences to the victims' families. This may mean that the victims were not military advisors. [Text]
[Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 26 Oct 79 p 2910]

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NIGER

BRIEFS

OFEDES CONTRACT--A call for tenders based on European financing was issued in 1978 for the construction of 80 water points in Damergou in Niger. The call for tenders having lapsed, the work has been let out under private contract to OFEDES (Office of Subsoil Water) in Niamey for 500.8 million CFA francs. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2572] 11798

FRENCH SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL COOPERATION--Under the heading of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the JOURNAL OFFICIEL of the French Republic for 16 September 1979 (pp 2234-2235) has published Decree No 79-793 dated 6 September 1979. It concerns publication of the general agreement relative to cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research between the French Republic and the Republic of Niger. The agreement was signed in Niamey on 15 March 1975. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2572] 11798

GAYA AREA FLOODS--A sudden rise in the Niger River in the Gaya area, located in southwestern Niger between Benin and Nigeria, has flooded some 1,950 hectares of land in the river valley, 802 hectares of which was under cultivation. About a thousand peasant families have been affected by the floods, and the loss in cereals is estimated at 1,200 tons of corn, rice, and sorghum. Such floods have not occurred in that part of Niger since 1959, long before the great drought in the Sahel. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2572] 11798

BOAD LOAN--On 4 September the BOAD (West African Development Bank) granted a loan of 370 million CFA francs to Niger. The loan is to finance a project for 100 pump-equipped wells in the Liptako area. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 p 2572] 11798

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SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

BRIEFS

FORMER PRIME MINISTER ARRESTED -- Mr Miguel Trovoadá, former prime minister of Sao Tome and Principe, who had asked for political asylum from the United Nations delegation (UNDP) in Sao Tome, was arrested on 5 October by Sao Tome soldiers. They broke down the door of the premises where Mr Trovoadá and his family had taken refuge. The United Nations representative in Sao Tome, Mr Diaw, who had been called to Libreville for a meeting, was not on the island at the time of these events. His presence has since been declared undesirable by the Sao Tome government. The former prime minister's family, which was expelled from the United Nations premises at the same time he was, was not arrested. It should be noted that the death penalty was restored in Sao Tome on 12 July last. On the occasion of ceremonies on the anniversary of independence, the government issued a law restoring the death penalty for "mercenaries." This law could be applicable to nationals in cases of "economic sabotage" and of "collusion with imperialism." It would not be impossible for Mr Trovoadá, if he were to be tried, to find himself charged with one of these crimes. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEEENS in French 12 Oct 79 p 2771] 8463

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SENEGAL

OPPOSITION LEADER THREATENS PRESIDENT, PROCLAIMS ARAB AFFILIATION

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4-10 Oct 79 p42

/Interview with al-Shaykh Ahmad Nayyas by Faruq Abu Zahar: "Senegal's Khomeyni Gives Senghor 90 Days Time Limit; Ahmad Khalifah Nayyas, an Important Islamic Leader in Senegal Says He Granted President Senghor 90 Days To Renounce His French Citizenship...or Else"/

/Text/ "I gave Leopold Senghor 90 days to make up his mind. If he does not renounce his French citizenship, I will oust him from the government."

This was what al-Shaykh Ahmad Khalifah Nayyas (33 years) the young leader of the new Islamic Senegalese Party said. Then he looked at me to note my reaction to the seriousness of his statement, and then he went on to add, "I will officially invite you in 3 months to visit the liberated lands."

If what al-Shaykh Nayyas said is true, Senghor will become the 16th president to leave the scene of African politics this year.

President Leopold Senghor, who is a poet, is considered today one of Africa's oldest leaders. He came to power 20 years ago. He is a devout Christian, and he rules a country whose population--over 95 percent of 5 million--is Moslem.

Al-Shaykh Ahmad Khalifah Nayyas belongs to an old Islamic Arab family in the Senegal. This family has led the Islamic Movement for a long time. Nayyas studied in Arabic schools in the Senegal, and he continued his studies in Tunisia and then in France where he acquired his graduate degrees in law.

/Question/ Why did you choose France, the country that has close ties with President Senghor, to proclaim this position against him?

/Answer/ We chose France in particular to proclaim the birth of the Senegal Liberation Front so that our voice would be heard because of France's location and because there is a large Senegalese community /here/.

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The Koran Is Our Constitution

/Question/ What are the principles of the party that you have established?

/Answer/ We began party activity 5 years ago by building and organizing the popular base. During the last month of Ramadan we made the official announcement of the birth of the Islamic Party which has more than 300,000 members.

The party is fundamentally based on Islamic law. The Noble Koran is our constitution. It is on the basis of these principles that we are calling for support of Arab causes. In fact, we are calling for the admission of the Senegal into the Arab League because of its location on the southern borders of Mauritania and because 95 percent of the population are Moslems of Arab descent.

When we come to power, we will impose a tax that we will call the Jerusalem dinar, and we will send the proceeds that we collect to the PLO.

/Question/ What specifically is your position on President Senghor's regime?

Al-Shaykh Ahmad adjusted the turban on his head and said:

/Answer/ We are an opposition party. Three days ago a governmental decree was issued requiring that we be prohibited from open political activity on the pretext that the existing four parties were enough. This led us to proclaim the Senegal Liberation Front after we were joined by other opposition forces that have hitherto been unrecognized.

/Question/ What specifically are your demands?

/Answer/ We are first of all asking that President Senghor renounce the French citizenship that he acquired as a result of his marriage to a French woman. We gave him a period of 90 days to do this. Otherwise, I will order the people to overthrow him.

Senghor Destroyed the Economy

/Question/ Will the problem be solved if he renounces the French nationality?

/Answer/ Not at all! This demand is the first step. We want to tell the world that the people of Senegal are being governed by a foreigner and that we have a right to rebel against him and to overthrow him.

Senghor destroyed the economy of the country and he borrowed heavily from abroad. Most of these funds were earmarked for the benefit of projects owned by Zionists. The interest rate on loans rose in a frightening manner. Today the interest that we pay on these loans every month is what we used to pay in a year. That is, the volume of loans has increased 12 times during the last 4 years. At the present time Senegal is a bankrupt state that is incapable of meeting its due debts.

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/Question/ Where then is Senegal's wealth?

/Answer/ We are betting on the future. In 5 years we will become an oil exporting country and the extraction of uranium will begin. Uranium will be the fuel of tomorrow. We want this wealth to be for the people and not for foreigners. At present the wealth that exists in Senegal is exploited by three Zionist families with whom Senghor shares the profits.

/Question/ But how will Senghor remain in power throughout this long period of time in spite of the fact that the majority of the people, as you say, reject him?

/Answer/ Senghor relies on two principal powers. /He relies on/ the French Army--and the largest French base outside of France is in the Senegal--which has the capability of confronting any rebellion. The second power /he relies on/ is that of the corporations that monopolize the economy.

/Question/ What about the Senegalese Army? What is its position?

/Answer/ It is not to be depended upon. There are 10,000 soldiers in the Senegalese Army, but so far it has played no role. Even its ammunition is in the French barracks.

/Question/ Are you against Senghor for political reasons or because he is a devout Christian?

/Answer/ There is no distinction here. We do not make a distinction between religion and politics, but the question is basically a political one. In the past the president used to rely on a truce between him and the Moslem scholars. But now the truce has come to an end, and those people have gone back to fighting him under the banner of overthrowing him because of the positions he has taken against the Arabs and Moslems. He forbids, for example, the writing of the Senegalese language in Arabic letters, and he does not allow the people to volunteer in the ranks of the PLO.

/Question/ It is being said that compared with what is happening elsewhere in Third World countries, there is a semi-democracy in the Senegal.

/Answer/ This democracy is artificial. All the party chairmen who are permitted by Senghor to work are married to French women and have French citizenship. They all vie among each other to please the French. The Senegalese minister of the interior is a French man by the name of Jean Collin. Senghor brought him 15 years ago to take care of security affairs and granted him Senegalese citizenship.

/Question/ What about Moslem representation in parliament?

/Answer/ Of a total membership of 100, there are 53 Moslem members in spite of the fact that we are a vast majority.

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/Question/ How do you evaluate the regime's relations with France?

/Answer/ The Senegal is still a French colony. All the features of colonialism are still there. There is political, economic and cultural pressure. We do not have our own currency in the Senegal because the French franc is used. We do not have an army because there is the French Army. Senegal does not have a specific policy because the French policy is the one that is followed.

/Question/ What about the citizens of the country?

/Answer/ They are poor. They have nothing. They are always being subjected to the harshest pressures.

/Question/ What about the relationship of the Senegalese people to the Arabs?

/Answer/ We look upon Arab issues as through they were our own common issues. Jerusalem concerns us as Moslems just as much as it concerns the Arabs. Our destiny is historically and religiously tied with that of the Arab countries.

/Question/ Is there an attitude of hatred for the Arab community?

/Answer/ Not at all. Senghor tried to create this hatred by means of proposing in literature and in culture the notion of the negro. He used to say that it was the Arabs who enslaved the blacks, but the people forced the president to abandon this notion.

Today in Senegal there are 40,000 Arabs who are also suffering from the monopolistic corporations. Half of them are Senegalese citizens.

Smoke Released by Senghor

/Question/ There has been talk about separatist attempts in South Mauritania, and it is said that these attempts are coming from the Senegal.

/Answer/ Everything that happened was merely smoke that was spread in the atmosphere by Senghor. It is known that the borders that were drawn up by colonialism were artificial borders and that they only express the interests of colonialism.

In the past, Senegal and Mauritania were part of one nation. European colonialism did take over our country that used to occupy a significant part of the Moslem empires of Mali and Sunghali. They remained Islamic lands. The Marabouts emerged from that land and spread out westward as far as Spain and France.

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During the colonial age Senegal and Mauritania had one capital that was called Dar al-Islam. But the colonial power changed its name to Saint Louis. To this day the north of the Senegal is inhabited by purely Arab tribes like all-Uluf and al-Falatah. Accordingly, there are negro communities in South Mauritania, but they are Arab in origin.

/Question/ How did Islam come to the Senegal?

/Answer/ Islam came to the Senegal by two means. It came by means of the Arab tribes that lived in Morocco and traveled southward to Mauritania crossing the Senegal River. The other road /that Islam traveled/ was an eastern road that began in Egypt and then the Sudan, Chad, the Niger and Mali. This took place 900 years ago.

/Question/ Will you return to the Senegal?

/Answer/ Of course I will return in spite of the fact that Senghor has asked that I be put on trial because I oppose his regime. This will not prevent me from returning to Senegal. He does not frighten me. As I said, I gave him a period of 90 days. If he does not get out, I will most certainly force him out.

/Question/ What will you do if France interfered on his behalf?

/Answer/ I have warned the French Government against the consequences of that because we will be compelled in return to ask for the assistance of forces that are allied with us.

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SENEGAL

ECONOMY BENEFITING FROM BETTER HARVESTING CAMPAIGN

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Sep 79 pp 2566-2568

[Text] The economy was hard hit in 1978 by the very poor peanut harvest of 1977-1978, during which 460,000 tons were marketed, compared to 1.07 million during the preceding season.

Rural incomes, on which more than two-thirds of the population depends, were drastically reduced, the trade balance was seriously worsened, and industrial production suffered from the shrinkage of the domestic market due to lower purchasing power.

But a predicted harvest on the order of 900,000 tons for the 1978-1979 season and an increase in food production mean that 1979 will show improvement over the preceding year.

The aftereffects of lower exports of peanut products will still be felt, however, in the foreign trade deficit for 1979, a deficit that could amount to between 60 and 70 billion CFA francs.

Much effort will be necessary both in the way of diversifying farm production and in the area of industrial development if the foreign trade predictions in the fifth plan (1977-1981), which were adjusted at the start of 1979, are to be approached. Those figures are as follows (in millions of CFA francs):

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Imports	240	294	336
Exports	182.6	217.4	253
Predicted deficit	-57.4	-76.6	-83

In 1978 the oil mills used 310,000 tons of peanuts (compared to 820,000 tons in 1977), working at only 35 percent of their capacity. Exports came to 61,200 tons of oil (down 159,500 tons) at a value of 15.6 billion CFA francs (down 31.8 billion) and 131,000 tons of cake (down 261,000 tons) at a value of 5.6 billion CFA francs (down 9.8 billion).

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With the exception of the oil mills, the industrial sector remained stationary in 1978.

After a good 1977, the extractive industry experienced a setback. Extraction by the Senegalese Taiba Phosphate Company totaled 1.46 million tons in 1978 (down 4.5 percent), while the Thies Phosphate Company mined 354,500 tons (down 15 percent). Including all products, the Senegalese mining industry delivered 1.82 million tons of ore (down 6 percent from 1977). The outlook for 1979 seems average: difficulties in Taiba due to the nature of the deposit and progress at Thies.

In the food industry, fish canning recorded satisfactory activity (up 42 percent). The 1979 fishing season began under good conditions: the tuna catch increased by 11 percent. There are some areas of concern, however: a marked preference by transoceanic tuna boats for supplying American canneries, a delay in organizing the outfitting of Senegalese ships, the delay in starting up the cold-storage plant in the port of Dakar, and very lively competition from Ivory Coast.

There was good activity in the grain and flour sector, with 106,000 tons of crushed wheat (compared to 38,000 tons in 1977), an increase that takes into account the setback in secondary cereals (down 15 percent). Rules were recently laid down for promoting the use of millet flour in manufacturing. Despite the high cost of sugar (three times the world price), the biscuit trade showed good results. Confectionery is still suffering (down 8.6 percent from 1977), and competition from Ivory Coast is particularly severe.

Following a drop in the consumption of beer and soft drinks during the early months of the year, sales picked up and the brewing industry's overall turnover increased by 2.8 percent.

The tobacco industry has continued to show sustained growth of about 10 percent.

In 1978 the textile industry encountered big problems: low domestic demand and massive low-priced imports, especially in the case of secondhand goods, stocks of which were built up before the import quotas were imposed and which remain high. The hosiery trade showed a drop of 13.4 percent, spinning and weaving showed a production drop of 38 percent, and printing decreased by 25 percent.

The leather industry was also affected (down 43 percent), but a recovery is expected in 1979 following reorganization of the Bata production unit.

Furniture manufacturing was held back by the limitations set on imports of sawnwood.

Overall, the paper industry progressed thanks to the demand for cardboard packaging.

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The curtailed purchasing power of the farmers was reflected in lower production figures for the machinery and equipment industry.

On the national market, sales of fertilizer by the national production unit rose by 28 percent on the domestic market and by 8 percent in the case of exports. The pesticide industry showed a 30-percent drop in plant health products, and the production of aerosols was stopped because of technical problems.

Soapmaking showed a production increase of 7 percent, and the outlook for 1979 is good. On the other hand, sales of cosmetics and beauty products were lower than in 1977.

The manufacture of plastic articles benefited from a 25-percent rise in sales of inexpensive bags and shoes.

In 1979 [as published] the African Refining Company processed 754,000 tons of imported crude oil and supplied 577,000 tons of manufactured products (up 5.6 percent over 1977). Its capacity is proving to be inadequate, and imports are necessary in order to meet market demand.

Cement production rose by 8 percent, and a growth rate of from 10 to 15 percent is expected in 1979. On the other hand, manufactures of asbestos cement fell considerably (down 25 percent).

The situation in printing worsened even further, with a drop in activity and a steadily declining profit margin.

There was no improvement in the construction and public works sector. The low-cost housing program, which was begun in 1976-1977 at a cost of 2.2 billion CFA francs, has been completed. A new program comprising 4,000 dwelling units has been decided on, but the financing has not yet been obtained. Another program for providing 5,000 dwelling units over a period of 5 years was the object of an international call for tenders. Major construction's share of the outfitting budgets is becoming smaller and smaller.

The year 1978 was a good one for tourism, with 215,000 visitors (up 16 percent). The average stay was 4.3 days. Senegal was estimated to have a lodging capacity of 6,230 beds at the end of 1978, and the average occupancy rate came to 48.5 percent for the year. A mixed-economy company will build a large tourist complex on the Petite Cote. Among the projects underway are the Hilton Hotel in Dakar-Cap Manuel (600 beds) and a Novotel Hotel (270 rooms) in Dakar on the site originally intended for the Banachoit hotel, construction of which was abandoned. The hotel industry experienced satisfactory activity in 1978 despite the higher turnover tax and the regulation of room prices.

The electricity and water sector continued to show steady progress (up 6 percent in 1978).

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After 4 years, Dakar's industrial free zone is still in its takeoff stage. Two firms are operating: the Company for the Production of Tires for Cycles, Mopeds, and Accessories and the Technical and Commercial Union (cigarette lighters, gas bottles, and leather clothing). Three more projects have been approved: they concern the manufacture of rattan furniture, readymade garments, and sports clothing. Studies now underway could result in the processing and packaging of rice, meat and vegetable canning, and spinning and garment-making. The promoters are Brazilian, Argentine, Canadian, and German.

Despite its fluctuating activity, the industrial sector has managed to keep employment up. The cutbacks in personnel--especially noticeable in the clothing and fine leather industries--were offset by hiring in the canning and brewing industries.

A general 10-percent wage hike occurred at the beginning of 1979 in recognition of the upward trend in consumer prices in African circles (down [as published] 7.1 percent in 1978).

It will be easier to acquire property thanks to the recent establishment of the Housing Bank, which will have access to 80 percent of the funds available to the Housing Improvement Fund and to low-interest loans for socially oriented building projects.

Training problems remain very topical, and industrial employers, aware of the importance of real advancement, are willing to cooperate effectively with the authorities.

The tax reform decided on by the government includes in particular a simplification of the customs tariff (an import customs duty at a flat rate of 5 percent on merchandise of any origin, an import revenue duty amounting to 10, 35, 45, or 70 percent depending on the kind of merchandise and goods being imported, and an export duty of 20 percent on oils and of 10 percent on oilcake).

As part of the policy for deregulating prices, the system in effect since 1968 was made more flexible: it applied to 21 products.

After 2 years of operation, the Fifth Economic and Social Development Plan (1977-1981) was adjusted downward in January 1979. Its overall volume was decreased from 416 to 398 billion CFA francs (down 4 percent). With a fulfillment rate of 36 percent during the first 2 years, the forecasts involve from 75 to 80 percent of the programs included.

The following initially scheduled activities have been revised:

1. Iron ore at Faleme: postponement until the end of 1979 of the general feasibility study.
2. Tobene phosphates: postponement of the program and its replacement by gradual expansion at Taiba.

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3. Petroleum prospecting: extension of the present permits to cover the entire offshore area and a portion of Senegal's onshore zone.
4. Maka Diama Dam: maintaining the construction timetable, with work expected to start at the end of 1979.
5. Oil mills: completion of the Diourbel oil mill and abandonment of the planned cotton oil mill in Tambacounda, with expansion instead of the plants in Lyndiane and Ziguinchor.
6. Sugarmills and ricemills: postponement of the pilot projects.
7. Fertilizer: continuation of the Senegal Chemical Industries project for producing phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizers. The cost of completing the project has been increased from 12 to 48 billion CFA francs.
8. Cement plant in Pout: an additional decision--the cost is now estimated at 20 billion CFA francs instead of the initial 5 billion.
9. Dakar-Marine: work began in April 1979 and should be completed by 1981. The cost is estimated at between 16 and 17 billion CFA francs.
10. Thies foundry: expansion has been postponed.
11. Textile industry: continuation of the integrated complex at Kaolack for exports (financing has not yet been obtained) and abandonment of the other projects for new units to supply the domestic market.

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ZAIRE

WESTERN PARTNERS TO MEET ON SUBJECT OF ZAIRIAN RECOVERY

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2712

[Text] Representatives of Zaire's Western partners in the implementation of its economic recovery plan will meet in Brussels, London, Paris and Washington in November and December 1979.

The purpose of the meeting in the Belgian capital will be to examine the finalizing of the financial commitments of each of the partners. The London meeting will deal with the payment schedule of the commercial debt; the Paris meeting will be devoted to the public debt; and the Washington meeting will attempt to set the level of the investment budget.

General Mobutu himself announced on 26 September, to the Political Bureau of the MPR (Popular Movement of the Revolution) the results of the numerous contacts he had made over a period of more than 5 weeks both in Europe and in the United States. He called upon his colleagues to explain to the population that "foreign aid is certainly necessary to the country; however, it can only play a supplementary role and cannot in any fashion replace the serious and meticulous work of every Zairian man and woman."

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ZAIRE

BANK OF KINSHASA REPORTS ON 1978 FISCAL YEAR

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2713

[Text] The Bank of Kinshasa's report for the 1978 fiscal year emphasizes that the past year was characterized by the bank management committee's efforts to continue the task of liquidating the after effects of radicalization. That fiscal year is said to have given bank officials "the opportunity to rethink and redefine the methods most likely to guarantee that there will be no return to management practices such as those of radicalization which left a burdensome heritage."

"Although that fiscal year requires--and for that matter even though it requires--a supplementary effort of imagination and thought to maintain the tool of production and prevent stagnation," the report continues, "the back up of the level of activity, such as has continued to result from the persistent shortage of the means of foreign payments and the policy for the framing of credits, continues to favor the redefinition of work methods and objectives to be attained."

Moreover, particular importance was to be placed on the recovery of accounts receivable. This resulted in an improvement in the treasury of national money which increased from 28.9 to 46.9 million zaires and also a rise in sight deposits due to the efforts to preserve the liquidity of the public's money holdings (customer deposits increased from 109.95 million to 162 million zaires).

As for interbank affairs, the commitments of the Bank of Kinshasa were reduced 34 percent, account taken of the payment by the Bank of Zaire of arrears on nonconfirmed paper credits. In this regard, the transfer to the Issuing Institute of commercial arrears and their provision of 30 million zaires was effected with less catastrophic results for the bank's treasury than in 1977 on the occasion of a similar operation.

The Bank of Kinshasa's holdings in correspondent banks increased from 41.95 million to 48.7 million zaires. The Bank of Kinshasa has continued to play an active role in coffee operations.

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Pursuant to a decree dated 16 February 1978, the Bank of Kinshasa, in accord with the Bank of Zaire, has reevaluated its fixed assets, which permitted it to writeoff an appreciation of 5.4 million zaires.

The financial statement balance and the volume of business increased considerably during the 1978 fiscal year. The balance increased from 181.2 million to 236.25 million zaires; i.e., an increase of 30.3 percent. Due to the increase in the volume of business and an appreciable rise in profits, total profits rose from 572,537 zaires in 1977 to 3,265,065 zaires. The decisive factor in the positive evolution in 1978 was the fact that the expansion of the volume of credits was also reflected in the surplus of interests which increased from 12 million to 18.4 million. In these credits, it is necessary to count the extension for debt payments of about 34 million zaires for exporters who ran into problems of shipping their coffee.

As regards expansion of the bank, the Management Committee took the steps required for implementation of the decision to open branches in Bunia in the Upper Zaire region in March 1978, and in Boma and Matadi, in the Lower Zaire region in 1979.

The main office of the Bank of Kinshasa is in the capital of Zaire. Its chairman is Dokolo Sanu.

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EMERGENCY AID FROM BELGIUM RECOUNTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2713

[Text] A recent bulletin from the CEDIOM [European Center for Overseas Industrialization and Development] recalls that during the period June 1978 to January 1979 the amount of emergency economic aid from Belgium to Zaire totaled 831 million Belgian francs.

This total is broken down as follows: food aid, 120 million; spare parts and raw materials, 301 million; agricultural implements, 60 million and state-to-state loans, 350 million.

Emergency aid to Zaire is under the control of a joint and autonomous central committee made up of representatives of the donors and all the Zairian departments involved. Two specialized subcommittees have been established: one for food aid, the other for spare parts and raw materials.

Revenues from the emergency Belgian aid in food and spare parts and raw materials are placed in a reemployment fund. Part of the revenues from the sale of Belgian food aid (850,000 zaires) was used to finance five actions:

1. Purchase of 284 tons of corn, peanut and soybean seeds for the farmers in the Lower Zaire.
2. Loan of 500,000 zaires to the Cotton Stabilization Fund.
3. Loan of 100,000 zaires to the National Office to the Promotion of Food Products (ONPPV) for the financing of a food program in the Bandundu region.
4. Loan of 86,000 zaires to the PNPPV for the financing of a soybean program in the region of the equator.
5. Loan of 100,000 zaires for the financing of a rice program in the Bumba region.

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As regards the "spare parts and raw materials," reemployment fund, a loan of 90,000 zaires had already been granted in March 1979 to groups of cooperatives in Northern Kivu for the purchase of secondhand trucks. This fund was expecting other loan requests, including one for the construction of bridges, installation of a service center, development of cottage industries, purchase of transportation equipment, electrification of the Boma-Tshela axis, etc.

(Let us recall that in our 25 May 1979 issue, p 1319, we published an article describing Belgian-Zairian cooperation.)

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ZAIRE

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH BRAZIL--According to figures published by the Brazilian Embassy in Kinshasa, between 1973 and 1978, Zaire exported over \$81 million worth of products to Brazil; i.e., an average of more than \$16 million per year. During the same period, Zaire imported more than \$128 million worth of products from Brazil; i.e., an annual average of more than \$25 million. Zairian exports to Brazil consist principally of ores destined for the light industries of that country. Imports from Brazil include mainly vehicles and food products. On both sides, there is also an exchange of manufactured products, which is accompanied by a desire to increase the volume of trade by diversifying commercial cooperation whose potentialities continue to be enormous. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 5 Oct 79 p 2713] 8143

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